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P24361.A02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Hiroshi NOMURA et al.

**Confirmation No.: 5387**

Serial No. : 10/731,475

Group Art Unit: 2873

Filed : December 10, 2003

Examiner: HASAN, M. A.

For : LENS DISTANCE - VARYING MECHANISM, AND STEP - ZOOM LENS  
INCORPORATING THE SAME

### COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Commission for Patents  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
220 20<sup>th</sup> Street S.  
Customer Window, Mail Stop \_\_\_\_\_  
Crystal Plaza Two, Lobby, Room 1B03  
Arlington, VA 22202  
Sir :

In response to the Notice of Allowability, mailed by the Patent and Trademark Office on August 13, 2004 and to the Statement of Reasons for Allowance attached thereto, Applicants wish to clarify the record with respect to the basis for the patentability of claims in the present application. In this regard, while Applicants do not disagree with the Examiner's indication that certain identified features are not disclosed by the references, Applicants submit that each of the claims in the present application recite a particular combination of features, and that the basis for patentability of each of these claims is based on the totality of the particular features recited therein.

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Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,  
Hiroshi NOMURA et al.

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November 3, 2004  
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